

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 SS-15

NSC-10 L-03 H-03 DRC-01 /105 W

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R 261113Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2051

INFO AMEMBASSY CURACAO

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 4236

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, NL, NA

SUBJECT: CIVAIR--NEGOTIATIONS WITH ANTILLES

REF: STATE 186724, CURACAO 567

1. WE AGREE WITH DEPARTMENT'S ASSESSMENT IN PARA 3 OF REFTEL THAT GON AND KLM WOULD NOT BE HAPPY WITH US/GNA (OR AMENDED US/GON) BILATERAL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT HAVING EFFECT OF CANCELLING KLM'S NYC/CURACAO ROUTE OR SHIFTING IT TO ALM OR WINAIR. IF THAT IS INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCE OF DIVIDING PRESENT BILATERAL INTO WESTERN HEMISPHERE AND TRANSATLANTIC SEGMENTS, WE CAN EXPECT GON TO EXERT HEAVY PRESSURE FOR SOME FORM OF COMPENSATION (E.G. LOS ANGELES OR WASHINGTON TRAFFIC RIGHTS OR MONTREAL COMMINGLING) TO OFFSET LOSS OF NYC/CURACAO ROUTE. IF, AS INDICATED IN REFTEL, SUCH COMPENSATION WOULD NOT BE AGREEABLE TO US AND DUTCH REALIZE THIS FROM OUTSET, THEY MIGHT OPT FOR SIMPLE AMENDMENT TO EXISTING BILATERAL COVERING WHATEVER ACCOMMODATION WE ARE PREPARED TO ACCORD TO NA AIRLINES WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO KLM NYC/CURACAO RIGHTS, BUT THIS IS FAR FROM CERTAIN.

2. POSSIBILITY OF NUDGING GNA FURTHER DOWN INDEPENDENCE TRAIL BY ENCOURAGING DIRECT US/GNA BILATERAL MIGHT BE TEMPTING TO
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GON, BUT THAT TRAIL SEEMS TOO LONG AND UNCERTAIN TO MAKE SUCH

A TACTIC FEASIBLE AT THIS STAGE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF GNA ATTITUDES REPORTED IN CURACAO 567.

3. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, WE RECOMMEND FRANK APPROACH TO GON ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: (A) USG IS READY TO NEGOTIATE (EITHER DIRECT WITH GNA OR THROUGH GON) ROUTE PACKAGE FOR ANTILLEAN AIRLINES WHICH COULD BE OF REAL BENEFIT TO THEM AND TO ANTILLEAN ECONOMY AS A WHOLE, (B) SUCH A PACKAGE WOULD PROBABLY NECESSITATE ELIMINATION OF KLM NYC/CURACAO ROUTE AND (C) IN VIEW OF EXISTING IMBALANCE IN US/GON AGREEMENT WE ARE UNABLE TO CONSIDER COMPENSATION FOR KLM.

4. WE SHOULD THEN LEAVE IT TO GON TO COPE WITH CONFLICTING PRESSURES FROM GNA AND KLM AND MAKE ITS OWN DECISIONS ON BOTH SUBSTANCE AND MODALITY OF NEGOTIATION. IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO PREDICT WITH CONFIDENCE WHAT THESE DECISIONS WOULD BE, BUT BALL WOULD AT LEAST BE SHIFTED TO GON COURT WHERE IT PROPERLY BELONGS UNDER EXISTING REALM CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE.

TANGUY

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